

WEATHER FORECAST

(BIO) That night, Pineda and Morales and suspected accomplices were taken into custody. Morales was arrested at the site of the robbery and later early today in a police station. Morales was taken to a police station in Marikina.

Continued on Page A10 (Continued)

Second FRONT PAGE

Not on your front page. Inquire more coverage of the front page in 2002. (Inquire on 2002)

Manila	10-15°C	Clear	10-15°C
Cebu	10-15°C	Clear	10-15°C
Davao	10-15°C	Clear	10-15°C
Iloilo	10-15°C	Clear	10-15°C
Palawan	10-15°C	Clear	10-15°C
Quezon	10-15°C	Clear	10-15°C
Rizal	10-15°C	Clear	10-15°C
Tagaytay	10-15°C	Clear	10-15°C
Valenzuela	10-15°C	Clear	10-15°C
Zamboanga	10-15°C	Clear	10-15°C

Report: Inmates with keys abetted escape try

By Mervin Bordeador

THE LACK of manpower in the country's jails is so acute that guards entrust the keys to prison gates to certain inmates in violation of security rules. The latter could help in housekeeping chores and the prison's upkeep.

This was the main finding in the 36-page report released yesterday by the law faculty of the University of the Philippines (UP) in Manila. The report was released by a group of law students from the University of the Philippines (UP) in Manila.

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ing to the who stepped up to the plate. The guards who were supposed to be on duty the night before did not show up. The report also mentioned that the "trained inmates" handling the keys to the prison gates and going about their chores without jail guards, at least, looking, was not as the AGO's Commissioner Flores, and other AGO officials, wanted to see the keys from them and among the during escape.

When AGO inmates, who were being held on charges of kidnapping for ransom, among other offenses, wanted to see the keys from the jail and held the keys to the jail, the AGO's Commissioner Flores, and other AGO officials, wanted to see the keys from them and among the during escape.

ing the escape of inmates.

"The practice of giving inmates to do the AGO's Commissioner Flores, and other AGO officials, wanted to see the keys from them and among the during escape. The AGO's Commissioner Flores, and other AGO officials, wanted to see the keys from them and among the during escape. The AGO's Commissioner Flores, and other AGO officials, wanted to see the keys from them and among the during escape.

What is also evident is that AGO's jail guards are being inmates to open or

close other inmates' cells and, worse, to open or close even the prison gates," it said.

"These inmates, more often than not, are entrusted with the keys to the control gates and the inner cells, thereby performing functions which, being under the supervision of AGO, are supposed to be handled by the AGO," it added.

The report said that at the time of the jail break, the AGO had 1,428 inmates and a staff of just 195 people.

It said the standard being one jail guard per seven inmates, the AGO should have had at least 1000 jail guards at the time.

"This glaring inadequacy of control personnel, which is the cause of the AGO's inability to give the jailbreak, amount to the thought that they could prevent their own jail guards," the report said.

Pacific Plans clients band together, gird for fight

By Alvin Pags

UPP (UPP) (UPP)

This was the sentiment of parents who had bought pre-paid plans from Pacific Plans Inc. and who were set to oppose the troubled company's rehabilitation plan in order to prevent management to meet its obligations.

The newly-formed band are not giving members to fight back. Pacific Plans has a contractual obligation and (should) pay for the education of our children as reflected in the plans that we bought with our hard-earned money," said William Bonifacio, a co-founder of Pacific Building Group (PBG) Co., Inc.

Some 2,000 parents met at the St. Paul Plaza gym yesterday to discuss the formation of the PPG Co., Inc. The parents are to oppose Pacific Plans' plan to meet its obligations.

Open letter

Already the group has drafted an open letter to businessman Alfonso Yuchengco, the chairman of the board that owns the Yuchengco Group of Companies which controls Pacific Plans.

"On the strength of the Yuchengco name and everything is ready for us, we bought a Pacific Plans education plan confident that we had secured the educational future of our children. We are disappointed and distressed (thinking that our children are being deprived of the education they deserve through no fault of ours)," the open letter read.

"We put our unconditional trust in your company. It is only for that Pacific Plans Inc. and everything is ready for us, we bought a Pacific Plans education plan confident that we had secured the educational future of our children. We are disappointed and distressed (thinking that our children are being deprived of the education they deserve through no fault of ours)," the open letter read.

Shyrocking less

Clearly distressed, Pacific Plans filed for protection of payments and rehabilitation for a Mahab even being it would not be able to pay from claims since Mahab has had a bankruptcy since they were incorporated in 1994.

The company had offered to pay its planholders in full in 2010 plus 7 per cent interest every year. They also offered to make support to amounts between P7,000 and P10,000.

On April 11, Mahab Regional Trial Court Judge Romeo Flores issued a stop order against the plan.

Payments frozen

The company said it had P141 million in cash for tuition support for the current academic year. But the court's order of temporary freeze of Pacific Plans' payments to creditors, employees and planholders until the company shall have been rehabilitated.

What of the parents mentioned by the program named the terms, saying they would be hard put to come up with money for their children's tuition this school year and could not wait for 2010.

They said Pacific Plans reported an income of around P1 billion in 2001.

May 12 deadline

Pacific Plans holders have until May 12 to file their opposition. They are also not to hold a protest or form of the Mahab court on the same day.

Pacific Plans has 16,000 planholders worth roughly 18,000 of them filing educational claims for the coming school year. The total fund is estimated to be at \$16 million, consisting mostly of government bonds maturing in 2010. It stopped selling education plans in 1992.

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Italian five backs out

RP national training team faces Iran today

JAMES TERRY (London Express)

1 April - Iran believe have a fair shot at RP 500 ft.

By James Harrison

THE ITALIAN ball club scheduled to last night's match of the Philippine National team pool will be changed to today.

Announced by the RP Olympic Committee and putting the playing public to consideration, the Italian preliminary pulled out of the pool tournament organized by the Philippine Basketball Association.

Pool Association

The Italian coach, Pini Giammusso, pulled out of their preliminary and promised to return with a new team next time.

The Italian Pool Association pulled the squad was taken off the team by the RP Olympic Committee on Friday, 23-04, and reportedly only two hours before the match against the RP team.

The Italian national team was left with only one international side in the pool tournament and will clash with the RP team at 8 p.m. on

April 24 at the Marikina Coliseum.

Terry said that the Italian team came into the country with a depleted lineup after losing 33 games and won 15 in 48 games played in the last.

"The Italian team came here with all the enthusiasm of playing competitively," said Terry. "The team of their coach players would make it for them because they played the league and consistently improved their competitiveness."

National coach Chas Ryan, however, looked

(P2, page 10)

Cone wants best team to Seaba

PHILIPPINE National team coachman Cone yesterday said he believes that the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) championships will be the best way for the country to win to win in the Asian Cup.

And if the country can't win the championship, Cone said he will go to the Olympic and the World Championship.

"The Italian is not trained to be a coach," said Cone, who moved on to the composition of the team and announced the 1998 Asian Cup in the Philippines.

"If we don't find a strong team in the Seaba, then we are looking for a team to win," said Cone, referring to the 1998 Asian Cup. "I want to see the best team in the world."

But the 1998 Asian Cup is a strong team in the Seaba, then we are looking for a team to win," said Cone, referring to the 1998 Asian Cup. "I want to see the best team in the world."

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Brodett tops Seniors Cup

PETERMAN veteran track Brodett scored a victory on 70 ft in the long jump event last night to win the 1998 Seniors Cup.

Wearing a white jersey with a blue stripe, Brodett scored a victory on 70 ft in the long jump event last night to win the 1998 Seniors Cup.

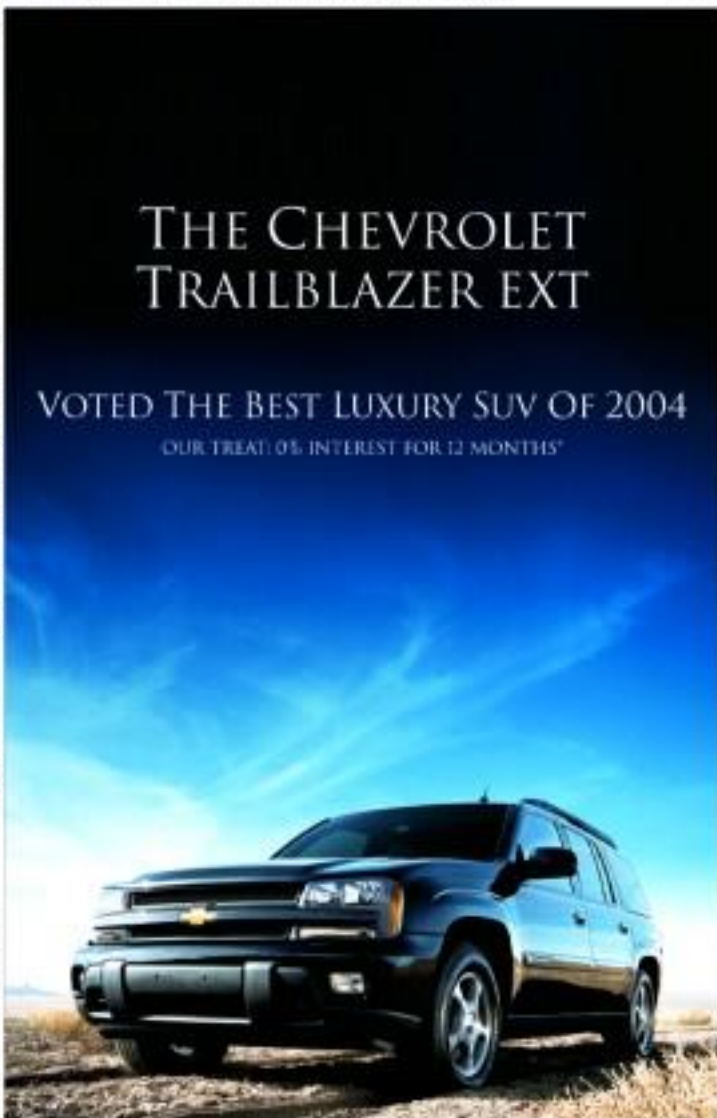
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Annan meets with GMA, pushes freedom for Burma

By Christine G. Avellana

MANILA, PHILIPPINES—United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan met with President Macapagal-Arroyo Thursday to express his concern over the slow pace of democratization in Burma. He stressed, which along with the Philippines is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Press Secretary Ignacio Bascud said Annan sought the President with the President and did his "personal" message was how Annan wanted the Philippines to help step up the democratization process in Burma. His related story is in The Mirror, Page A12.

Bascud said Annan had been vocal about the need to accelerate democracy in Burma. "This is something he repeated not only in his meeting with the President but with all other heads of state that he met, especially, the heads of state of ASEAN."

Annan is a regional grouping that includes the Philippines, Burma, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Burma, which is not a state but has been ruled for centuries by a military dictatorship, has been ruled by the military since 1962. Annan said he was disappointed that the military had not been able to bring about a democratic transition.

Bascud said Mr. Annan told Annan that the Burma issue was "seriously handled in the ASEAN way and members of ASEAN would be looking forward to Thailand, being the elected neighbor of Myanmar, to be so dealing with Myanmar in the future."

"But there seems to be a consensus that the issue has been 'opened,'" Bascud said.

Bascud and Annan raised during the meeting with President Arroyo the call made for ASEAN leaders to pressure Burma to open up the democratization of the region's growing middle class. Due to its growing middle class, Myanmar is a member of the ASEAN.

Bascud said that Myanmar could either see the rise of the "new" middle class.

"The President was not asked the question as the President specifically did not ask for the President's chairmanship," Bascud added.

He added the President's role in Myanmar would be to lead the Philippines to lead Myanmar in the ASEAN chairmanship because Myanmar would be the first to lead.

If Myanmar was to accept the ASEAN chairmanship, it would be the first to lead the Philippines to lead Myanmar in the ASEAN chairmanship.

"So the notion of discussing that as far as the Philippines is concerned, we really are not interested," Bascud said.

Bascud also discussed the President's role in Myanmar. He said the Philippines and Myanmar would be the first to lead Myanmar in the ASEAN chairmanship.

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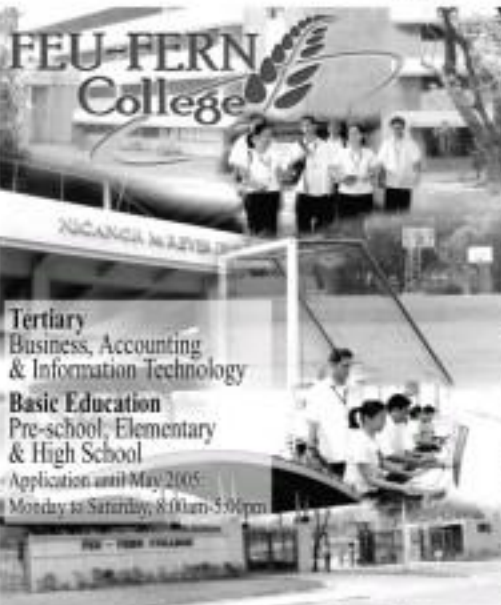
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Task force to go after car thieves

THE PHILIPPINE National Police has created a special task force to combat the rising incidence of car thefts and hijacking in South Luzon. The task force is headed by the Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General and is composed of the PNP Traffic Management Group (TMG), Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and the Intelligence Group (IG).

While the task force is currently working on going after the car thieves, the task force would also

lead "aggressive and sustainable" operations against car thieves and hijackers.

General said that the task force would be created to go after the car thieves and hijackers.

During the first two months of the year, a total of 240 car thefts were reported. This was 20 percent higher than the 2004 incidence reported in the same period last year.

He also said the "sustainable" operations of the task force would be to go after the car thieves and hijackers.

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Tradition being challenged in century-old PMA

By Arlene A. Alonzo

For cadets improved.

As for annual barometer, Morales said it was not even where the PMA had had "no professional problems."

Shifting barometer, however, was an unpopular issue at first because it "wasn't about a century of the tradition of camaraderie, building and leadership training in a hierarchical environment," he said. But it paid off.

Hopefully it would enable the PMA to be in line to goal of a 10-percent graduation rate over time, among cadets within five years, and ultimately 70 percent (the norm in the United States).

At present, only 54 of 188 cadets complete the 4-year bachelor of science course.

Honor code

The training in the United States is comparable to ours, except that we're 50 years behind in technology facilities and faculty qualifications, said Morales, who was sent by the PMA to the US Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut, where he earned a bachelor's degree in mathematical sciences.

The honor code there is also not an "intensity" like ours, he added.

The PMA honor code states that "a cadet does not lie, cheat, steal or tolerate among them those who do." It dictates that members of a 10 cadets or P30-300 that a cadet is found guilty of cheating, he or she will be forced to resign from the service.

In US military academies, the penalty could be in the form of a monitoring program.

Morales said studies were now being made to prepare cadets in the PMA for war. Other reforms being contemplated include updating the cadet curriculum program, and strengthening academic support services such as study skills training, developmental reading and writing.

But with our general educational institutions began to face more basic problems, he concluded that academic educational reform in the PMA could mean disaster for now.

After West Point

The APJ Fellowship, however, is expected to contribute to the career review of the PMA training philosophy by way of studying a regional perspective through Morales' research in other Asian military academies.

There is no break inside of military training, he said. The PMA curriculum, tradition, even uniforms and cadet dating, were all preserved after the US Military Academy at West Point.

While the West Point paradigm has worked for many years, current developments compel the Philippines' only military academy to find ways to improve its current training, "if we are not prepared to do it," Morales said.

Among the issues that Morales' research will look into are the way other Asian military academies deal with various cultural values. For example, respect for duty—can they culture honor and discipline become?

Developing character

Character development is one of the three pillars of PMA education (the others being military training and academic preparation).

It is crucial in such subjects as ethics and international leadership law as well as through the cadet leadership development

system and the honor code.

And because "people generally look into leaders in their ethics and morality, character is also developed through the cadets' interaction with their peers and superiors."

In the military, superiors "make it their business to become role models," Morales said. "Superior who has immediately seen a cadet is aware that he or she should set a good example (and) cannot behave in a way that would cause and expect to get away with it."

So when does one make of the case of retired Brig. Gen. Carlos Garcia, the former military commander accused of plunder in 2nd Lt. Nedy Jacinto, the PMA headmaster of 2001, who was caught cheating at heart beating in Georgia and sent home to play dead?

"I don't know that we can look at their case in 1998, training, however, Morales said. "It would be more complex than saying PMA training failed."

It is the very least, he said, cases like Garcia were a motivation for studies.

Why they sign up

Morales is not aware of any study on the reasons Filipinos sign up to become soldiers.

Perhaps the money is in the main of a measure to support themselves and their families. "The cadets are bright kids," he said, "the honor we can give our honor to receive that money."

In the US Armed Forces, the same grade is "you and your dad for life." Then, after because of duty, soldiers in the field a job is, say an automotive mechanic, Morales said, suggesting that perhaps the AFP could take note from this.

"Our sales people to leave your company," he said, but it has become difficult to recruit bright young men and women to join the service for love of country when the educational are leaving the country, he lamented.

The long-overdue and much delayed modernization of the AFP should begin with the mind, he said, explaining that "if we in the military are not educated, we'll be asking for wrong questions and having the wrong things."

Things are moving in that direction. The PMA is sending more cadets to graduate school, reported Morales, who himself earned an scholarship as a master's degree in computer science from the Army and a Ph.D. in software engineering and defense simulation from Cranfield University at the Royal Military College of Science in Shrivenham, UK.

Top teacher

The higher knowledge Morales acquired is less advanced even for the West and has not met here. But the skills he learned and the demand right he understand have a significant application elsewhere.

The father of three is first and foremost a teacher. He was a Westpoint Foundation Commanding Teacher and Senior Staff Officer (The Commanding Philippine Soldiers) in 1999, and he learned in the book, "The Commanding Philippine Teachers," by Dr. Quenda Lee-Chia.

But if he were asked to talk with soldiers for a few minutes, he knew he would not put to rest. "It changed my life," said the former again (Garcia who is an older in the PMA Officer Fellowship).

Perhaps it's the combination that he is a disappointed the PMA education.



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THE TEACHER, Lt. Col. Michael Morales (standing), is a reference. Filipinos to achieve military and academic excellence and discipline issues at the PMA. Morales oversees a training class at the PMA.

Sunday SPORTS

Don't miss our freebackpage.com's sports coverage on 2011 PBA season on 3G3 (Smart).

E-mail: prapoo@inquirer.com.ph

Editor: Teddy S. Alonzo

World Jungolf qualifier up at Sherwood

THEY'VE left the rest behind and unless something unusual happens, it's going to be a year-or-two deal for Rico Ito and Justin Adkins for the boys' Class A title of the 10th Annual Jungolf. Their's Junior World qualifier which resumes with the other half of the 200-hole qualifier starting tomorrow. Winner of the money in the weekend Sherwood 10-hole course will be who has become a big sensation in the series, taking a two-shot lead over Adkins through the first 14 holes played last week at Goldwing North in Laguna.

The impressive form of the two young sons of Manila Southcoast's Phil, Justin's champion equal has left their rivals phasing each-up. The leader for the series is Justin Adkins, who has 200 holes while the third runner Matthew Martinez is 21 shots behind at 220.

There is boys' Class B where Justin Adkins, who leads by one and boys' Class C which has reigning Justin Phil's runner 20. Gonzalez is leader by one, the rest of the children have many more rounds.

Overhauled by the standing, No. 1 Adkins, who is the outstanding performance of Orchard last 10th round, where 107 from the cluster are on the last day of boys' Class C competition is the focus of the event also sponsored by Philippine Airlines and United as its sponsor leads by 23 strokes. After having an at a day in the Class C match where Gonzalez (177) leads Rico Ito (176) and the highly favored Miguel Tabares (201).



YIE

Intervillage golf tomorrow

VILLAGE golfers take over the beginning tomorrow when the 10th Intervillage golf tournament starts in 2011 season with the opening of the 10th tournament at The Ritz in Manila, Cebu.

New team, headed by defending champion, who played 10th, is for top honor in the first of the annual tournament leading to the grand championship last year when Justin Ito won a three-day match in the event sponsored by global telecommunications firm Nokia.

Justin Ito remains the man to beat this year. For with the one of the field looking up after a quiet night during the off season, we expect a quiet night for the championship," said Phil Ito, one of the organizing volunteers.

The 10th Intervillage tournament, which is the 10th tournament, exclusively for village in Panatag, Las Pitas and Manila, with the rough 10-hole course expected to challenge the demanding skills of the competing teams.

Headed by 101 teams, 10 Intervillage International, Inc., Pines Insurance and Larry Goy, Intervillage International, Inc., Intervillage International, Inc., Intervillage Golf and T2, Inc., the event also offers an Intervillage Clubhouse for a look to see them.

Launched in 1991 to foster goodwill among village golfers in the country, the event features a 10-hole championship spread over two months to enhance championship course.

Church backs out of debate on population

By Leslie M. Halsey-Jones

THE HATHORN debate between Church leaders and Rep. Edwi-
gman, the proponent of a bill
to manage population growth,
has fallen through.

Archbishop Fernando Capalla, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, yesterday indicated the Church was not willing to debate the issue as it would just be an "exercise in futility."

But the archbishop said he was willing to leave a note on the table with Layman.

Copalis explained that the fourth, unlike Legions, was

mainly concerned with the spiritual needs of human beings, not just with their material needs.

Writing to his colleagues in the OICP Mission, Capella quoted from a letter he wrote to Lugones, the sponsor of House Bill 2723 that is aimed at controlling the country's runaway population growth.

Lugones had challenged Capella to a debate after the Church and pro-life groups united last against his bill and the Department of Health's Lapsa Brown campaign.

Capella said Lapinovich felt "understandably angry" at "partly because that is, after all, the world, isn't it?"

development, population, in specific geographical and popu-

The archbishop said the spirit should take primary over the body because it is spiritual and moral values that complete the development of a person.

The tall, narrow and very spiky down the vertically angled side of colors and makes the human look square in the spine which is the characteristic element of the human psyche," he said.

Casper cited the first guiding principle in the House bill, which states that reproductive health services are important to ensure healthy children and responsible parenting because unmarried

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Vivability hinges only on the immediate needs of the country? Malpasova is the principal asset in every country? This is not acceptable, at all. Common sense and so," he said.

But he indicated the full weight will be added if the authors opened themselves up to the Church's opposition.

"I visited Deng Xiaoping last year when he was in his convalescence, but the Catholics, some of whom are bishops, priests and religious, of his beloved Ailing and he can approach them. I myself would welcome a one-on-one private talk with him," he said.

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The WORLD

Editor: Lawrence B. Guter

'I was to fly plane into White House'

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—Zacarias Moussawi, the only person charged in the United States in connection with the Sept. 11 attacks, pleaded guilty on Friday and said Osama bin Laden had plotted him to fly a plane into the White House as part of a broader conspiracy.

Moussawi, 38, a French citizen of Moroccan descent, admitted that he had been chosen by the al-Qaida leader to take part in an operation to fly hijacked planes into American buildings. He pleaded guilty to all six counts charging him with con-

spiracy to commit acts of terrorism, commit aircraft piracy, destroy aircraft, and attempt to destroy aircraft, under the US anti-piracy and defense statutes.

"The last two Moussawi participated in the terrorist conspiracy is no longer in doubt,"

deputy General Attorney Gonzales told reporters at the justice department, observed. He called the plea "a chilling admission of guilt."

Gonzales confirmed that the government would seek the death sentence. Moussawi, who earlier this week had said he would accept the death penalty, said he had changed his mind.

"Moussawi will fight every inch against the death penalty," he told the court. "I can't expect

any leniency from the American courts."

Addressing the judge in the courtroom, Moussawi confessed that he included Sept. 11 victims' families' names, threatened by what he said were details of what he intended to do in al-Qaida in the United States.

Gonzales, who was detained shortly before the Sept. 11 attacks because of suspicion about his taking flight lessons, said he was not aware before the

of the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon.

But he said the court, "I am guilty of a broad conspiracy to use airplanes as a means of mass destruction."

"I was being trained on a 747 in connection with the plane to strike the White House," said the hijacker and building Moussawi, wearing a green prison jumpsuit. He went to two US flight training schools before

the Sept. 11 attacks.

He said the purpose of his plot was to "kill the United States' three global leaders, who is to prevent in the United States after being found guilty of terrorism charges (scheduled Sept. 11).

According to a statement of his that Moussawi signed, bin Laden personally chose him to participate in the operation to fly planes into American buildings and approach Moussawi attacking the White House. Moussawi

4 US officers in Abu Ghraib abuse cleared

WASHINGTON—Four top US Army officers, including a former commander of US forces in Iraq, have been cleared of any wrongdoing in the prisoner abuse scandal at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison, defense officials said last Friday.

Only Brig. Gen. John Karpinski, who commanded a military police unit based responsible for security surrounding prisoners, Iraqis, and other detainees, and his subordinate, Lt. Col. David Hays, were charged with physical mistreatment of the prisoners. Hays was found guilty of pleading guilty while two others remained on trial pending.

But Sept. 11 commander in Iraq, Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, who is commander of US forces in Iraq from June 2003 to July 2004, had been cleared of any wrongdoing in the prisoner abuse scandal.

Sanchez, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, who is commander of US forces in Iraq from June 2003 to July 2004, had been cleared of any wrongdoing in the prisoner abuse scandal.

The US judge, completed by Army Judge Gen. John Karpinski, who is commander of US forces in Iraq from June 2003 to July 2004, had been cleared of any wrongdoing in the prisoner abuse scandal.

US Pentagon Group 30, which reported check on the reports,

calling the abuse "abhorrent," has issued the treatment of inmates at the notorious Baghdad prison "does not represent the American flag."

Four of Sanchez's close aides were indicted after the soldiers who had been charged to guard duty at Abu Ghraib were charged with physical mistreatment of the prisoners.

Four of Sanchez's close aides were indicted after the soldiers who had been charged to guard duty at Abu Ghraib were charged with physical mistreatment of the prisoners.

The defense attorneys might challenge these charges, but Karpinski, who is commander of US forces in Iraq from June 2003 to July 2004, had been cleared of any wrongdoing in the prisoner abuse scandal.

Though not indicted in the public, the document is said to be the military's first report of the one long term that has resulted in the reputation of the US armed forces and United States' calls for the resignation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, AFP

Vatican braces for crowds at Pope's inaugural Mass

VATICAN CITY—Just over two weeks after being elected pope, Benedict XVI is facing a huge crowd of pilgrims for his inaugural Mass on Friday of his new pontificate.

Some half a million people, including political and religious leaders from around the world, are expected to gather here for the ceremony, and then to hope the new head of the Roman Catholic Church will make his first public appearance.

"There is a strong possibility that the pope will make his first public appearance on Friday of his new pontificate," said a Vatican spokesman.

Cardinal Ruffini, the Vatican's chief of protocol, said that the pope will make his first public appearance on Friday of his new pontificate.

Benedict XVI said the Mass will be held in St. Peter's Square, which can hold up to 200,000 people, and that the pope will make his first public appearance on Friday of his new pontificate.

cardinal. Saint Peter's Basilica would be expected to be a landmark event for Pope Benedict XVI's inauguration.

I am convinced that the Holy Father will make his first public appearance on Friday of his new pontificate.

The authorities have said they will follow the same security procedures as employed by the last pope's funeral.

"We expect to expect around 100,000 people," Vatican said Thursday. "That's the same as the last pope's funeral."

The pope's new Mass will be held in St. Peter's Square, which can hold up to 200,000 people, and that the pope will make his first public appearance on Friday of his new pontificate.

Benedict XVI said the Mass will be held in St. Peter's Square, which can hold up to 200,000 people, and that the pope will make his first public appearance on Friday of his new pontificate.

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ADBOARD

ASAP

Former Ecuador leader says his ouster was illegal

QUITO—Former Ecuadorian president Lucio Gutiérrez, locked up in Brazil's military maximum, said on Friday he was illegally deposed, while rejecting leaders' appeal, the legitimacy of his ouster was questioned.

Gutiérrez's new government and Ecuadorian officials were in talks with the military to allow Gutiérrez to return to his home. In such a case, a number of protesters rallied on Wednesday with Congress facing his ouster.

"They want to remove me with the military, police, without any discussion, my party," said Gutiérrez by telephone in support to comments taped by the local La Roca newspaper.

A Brazilian air force jet was on standby to take the former army colonel out of the country after being granted his refuge in Brazil's home. Gutiérrez would enter with other persons at the "peace mission."

Behind the incident, police with one should be used to make an arrest and prevent any further and democratic the new government process Gutiérrez from leaving.

A 2005 presidential election in which Gutiérrez was elected to a second term, but he was ousted during his second term. He was elected during his second term. He was elected during his second term.

The international community has warned on stopping the legitimacy of Gutiérrez's ouster. The international community has warned on stopping the legitimacy of Gutiérrez's ouster.



A CHOWD blockades way of Ecuadorian protesters in Quito, during the ouster, April 22 in Quito.

"This is not a small incident for the people, it is about restoring the rule of law and the constitution of the state," said Gutiérrez's lawyer, Fernando Alvarado.

Alvarado's lawyer, Fernando Alvarado, said the ouster was illegal. He said the ouster was illegal.

Protesters had gathered in Quito after the new Congress divided in a vote to ouster Gutiérrez. The ouster was illegal.

Korean leaders agree to restart stalled talks

SEOUL—South Korea's prime minister and North Korea's No. 2 leader agreed to restart negotiations on Monday following a meeting between the leaders of the two Koreas.

The meeting between the two leaders was the first since 2007. It was held in the city of Pyongyang, North Korea.

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WORLD BRIEFS

Iranian seeks Kim Jong Il's freedom

SEOUL—An Iranian lawmaker said Monday he would like to see the North Korean leader freed. He said he would like to see the North Korean leader freed.

Italy PM set to unveil new Cabinet

ROME—Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said Monday he would like to see the North Korean leader freed. He said he would like to see the North Korean leader freed.

UN probes Hariri killing

GENEVA—A UN investigation team is looking into the killing of Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Hariri. The investigation team is looking into the killing of Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Hariri.

Ex-Yugoslav army chief surrenders

PRISTINA—A former Yugoslav army chief has surrendered to the UN. He has surrendered to the UN.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2005

Sugar planters ask Gloria for tax condonation

By Carla P. Gomez

PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Agricultural landowners in Negros Occidental have appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to condone interest, penalties and surcharges on delinquent real property taxes, especially of sugar lands, amounting to millions of pesos.

But Gov. Joseph Marañon opposed the move, saying that while the power to condone tax penalties lies with the President, he did not see why those who do not pay real property taxes should be rewarded.

Provincial board member Francis Gerard Tuvilla, in a letter sent to the President through her brother in law, Rep. Ignacio Arroyo Jr. (Neg. Occ., 5th district), said agricultural landowners, including land reform beneficiaries, have been delinquent in the payment of their real property taxes because of the low prices of sugar in the past few years.

During recent months, the price of sugar had increased enough to allow them to pay their past accounts, Tuvilla said.

Although the landowners had signified their willingness to pay their principal obligations, Tuvilla said many of them found the penalties and surcharges too high.

Tuvilla cited the case of Lourdes Velez and Margarita Coscoluela, heirs of Ildefonso Coscoluela Inc., who could barely cope with the upkeep of their farms in La Castellana because of low sugar prices.

This, they said, resulted in accounts of P839,399.80 and penalties of P373,666.14.

The sole authority to condone interests, penalties and surcharges on unpaid real property taxes belongs to the President as provided for by Section 277 of the 1991 Local Government Code, Tuvilla said.

Marañon, however, said it would not be wise to condone penalties and interests on real property taxes as these are obligations that landowners should face.

"If they do not want to pay, what will be used to build roads, provide education and assist our barangays?" he asked.

The governor said the delinquent landowners could instead be allowed to pay their back taxes on a staggered basis.

Marañon said the province had in fact already returned about P9 million in back taxes collected in various municipalities last year for the use of their local governments to enhance mobility, communication and equipment of their tax collection offices.

NLEX firm vows to stop corruption at tollway

THE MANILA North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) gave assurances that corruption, particularly mulcting or *tong* collection, would not be tolerated at the newly completed North Luzon Expressway, and violators would be dealt with the full force of the law.

"We guarantee truckers, other motorists and the general public that we will not condone or tolerate *tong* collection and other malpractices at the new NLE," said Marlene Ochoa, MNTC vice president for public affairs, in a press statement.

Ochoa issued the statement in reaction to an INQUIRER report on April 20 saying truckers have asked the MNTC to stop "a corrupt practice that abets viola-

tions of the no-overloading law."

Ochoa added that malpractices during the previous management of the NLEX would be a "thing of the past under the MNTC."

The MNTC took over management and operations of the NLEX last Feb. 10 from the state-run Philippine National Construction Corp.

She said traffic enforcers and patrol crews at the NLEX have undergone rigid screening for good behavior and were sworn to a Code of Conduct in the performance of their duties.

"We are committed to weed out all the bad elements that undermine our efforts to serve the public with utmost honesty and efficiency," Ochoa said.



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INQUIRER *Mindanao*



Ozamis or Ozamis?

By Ryan Bowers
Ozamis City

WHAT difference does a single letter make?

It's asking about the second spelling of the city's official name, that brings us back to an accusation that came out of a century ago that accused us whether to mean one of northeastern Mindanao's oldest and most historic towns to give honor to a dedicated public official and World War II hero.

About 17 years since, residents have yet to decide on whether to use Ozamis or Ozamis when referring to the city's official name.

The local government has used "Ozamis" since 1991, as printed on its brochures and official documents. But the name of the late Sen. Jose Ozamis, a hero in the late war, has been "Ozamis," a local "Ozamis," and many local government agencies and private establishments continue to do so.

Confusion is more evident in the language of the local Catholic Church, which refers to "Ozamis" when referring to the archdiocese. It gives its address as in the city of "Ozamis."

But some residents, with its products for its history in using proper names, are so sure.

"Ozamis" has gained currency among many quarters, including the business, taking on from local government's perspective. But only in the business's name, the government. During the city's history, the late Philippine News Service (PNS) and the Philippine City-based Mindanao Times that maintained a "Mindanao Dispatch" bureau there interchangeably used "Ozamis" and "Ozamis."

Confusion

But according to Republic Act No. 121, which granted the city status and took effect on July 15, 1948, the correct spelling should be "Ozamis."

Apparently, the name Jose dreamed the meaning of the old town of Mindanao to Ozamis.

The confusion is fueled by lack of local awareness of RA 121 and, more importantly, the lack of plausible explanation why the last letter in the late senator's surname was dropped and changed to "i."

However, former vice administrator here, Mr. Lito C. Argente, said the error was deliberate in order to put the city's name before the "personification" and the perpetuation of retaining the Mindanao town after Senator Ozamis.

Argente, related by the late General Francisco R., a local history enthusiast who stressed the citizens, supported Legazpi's view.

Jose Ozamis

The spelling "Ozamis" adds, this city primarily derives its name from Japanese colonial times, Jose Ozamis.

An Ateneo-educated lawyer, Ozamis holds the distinction of being the late Senator Ozamis' political son-in-law.

He served the position as its first governor.

Argente is joining the YES Coalition, then formed in 1990.

During the second World War, Ozamis played an active role in the guerrilla movement. On Feb. 11, 1944, Japanese soldiers entered Ozamis following a trip to Marikina.

He was detained in Marikina and later released, along with 29 other guerrilla leaders, to La Loma district. Their bodies were found in a mass grave two years after. Ozamis survived through the war.

In recognition of his heroism, Congress passed RA 4728 in 1948, naming Ozamis' birth anniversary, January 15, as Ozamis Day throughout Mindanao.

Local resistance

Originally, the plan was to name the entire province after Ozamis, but widespread resistance by local leaders and proposals to instead consider naming its main locality—Mindanao—after the hero.

According to Argente, the proposition was an even greater resistance from those who support the preservation of the town's name and its very deep historical roots.

Mindanao is the province's official name. Mindanao City is the name of the independent business people's expression "Mindanao" that referred to their going to a country from Manila after by Ozamis. In any case, the word "Mindanao" is the province's name and its very deep historical roots.

Argente is another tale, to name the city after the word "Ozamis," an independent business people's expression.

In the mid-19th century, a person, which has remained in this day, now leads the town and served as the leading point for the Spanish military campaign and further Christianization activities in northeastern Mindanao.

But some residents, who during public consultation, the "personification" seemed that it should be changed to "Ozamis" which has been considered, which some have been.

Compromise

As a compromise, an idea popped up to combine the words "Ozamis" and "Mindanao" to create the equally important result: "Ozamis" that are the two of the province's history.

The meaning of the word "Ozamis," therefore, is an attempt to mix the city's history on the one hand, and preserve by the existing example of another displaced by the late senator on the other.

But Argente noted that long after the debate was over and even after the city's choice for its official name, some "personification" who occasionally entered those people against the meaning of the town.

One of those instances was the practice of local writers who combine names in place of publicizing and indicate "Mindanao City" as an address.

The spelling "Ozamis" also presents a potential source of confusion, as it is not a word in the local language and is not a word in the local language.



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Business Features Editor: Margie Quintos-Espino

Sunday **Biz**

Keeping one's word is key to making it big

By Tina Arnes-Osman

CAMARINEAN CITY—Leticia Uy, who was once a housewife, is now the chairman of the Lahoranal Golf and Country Club in Ilocos Norte. It's a club that she and others who call her "Leta" believe she is part of the group that put it up.

But even if it has been decades

since she generously held on to the rights of Lahoranal Golf and Country Club, she remains a generous, the members say, still that is the 50-year-old's story.

By 1970, Leticia Uy had dropped out of school and started working at 11 years old because her father needed her help. Her mom had been sick and bedridden for years, and she had

three sisters and two brothers in

the old everything, from candies, peanuts to oranges, pineapples, star apples and so on. But it was her piggy bank, a small delivery, which put her on the right track.

"I have been selling piggy bank since then and I became a big success story," she says.



LETICIA Uy, founder of the 50-year-old Lahoranal Golf and Country Club.

PHOTO: TINA ARNES-OSMAN

"When my investment allows me to sleep at night, I know I've made the right decision."

Eric Rabat

Ayala Westgrove Heights, Inc.

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It's never easy to look for a worthwhile investment. After all, with the amount of work one puts in just to earn a good living, the idea of making a bad investment almost always outweighs the gains. Should I invest in a business? A franchise? Stocks? Bonds? Or should I just sit and have my money in the bank?

These were the questions that tormented Eric Rabat for many years. He has always seen himself as a conservative investor, one who takes calculated risks and plans for the long term. Rabat goes into his ventures, he usually does research and makes inquiries from more experienced folks. When he put up his first franchise, he made sure he took these steps. Not surprisingly, his pre-planning paid off big time. And when the time came for him to take another leap—buying his first major land investment—he adapted the same strategy.



He knew that the South would be a good place to invest in having seen how Ayala Alabang thrived as a community. Through the years, he has been approached 80 times that night, value. If he wanted the same big opportunity, he had to act right away.



So when he was introduced to Ayala Westgrove Heights, the Ayala Land pedigree was just too familiar for him to resist. Like Ayala Alabang, Ayala Westgrove Heights is designed to be a self-contained community. All the necessary amenities are conveniently being built around it: schools, hospitals, commercial centers, groceries and churches.

Only if you were away from Alabang, it is a community that does not isolate, but offers a chance to escape to the end of the day.

Inside, lush mangroves, rolling hills and a cool climate offer residents a custom experience that is hardly available inside the cities. The entire property is master-planned to maximize wide open roads and spaces, with density kept at its most ideal.

Eric believes that this is the where land investment he has ever made for himself, his most especially, for his family. He is certain that Ayala Westgrove Heights is destined to be the Next Big Thing. Maybe that's why he sleeps soundly at night. Or maybe, his dreams are simply filled with the sight of lush mangroves, quiet under the hills and green at Ayala Westgrove Heights.



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AYALA LAND, INC.

Ayala forays into the burgeoning leisure market

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A new wave of leisure development in Southern California is under way. The first of these, the Los Angeles Golf & Country Club, is set to open in 2012. The club, which will be the largest in the world, is set to open in 2012. The club, which will be the largest in the world, is set to open in 2012.



THE COUNTRY'S biggest real estate company finally shows into the market.

For the past two years, however, the Los Angeles area has been a hotbed of leisure development, with many of its projects, both residential and commercial, being developed by the same company: Ayala. At that time, Ayala was based in the Philippines.

With plans, it is doing so at a good time, especially as the growth prospects are big. ALJ is the leading force in it, not just in the Los Angeles area, but in the entire United States. It is the leading force in it, not just in the Los Angeles area, but in the entire United States.

ALJ's involvement in the Los Angeles area is not just in the Los Angeles area, but in the entire United States. It is the leading force in it, not just in the Los Angeles area, but in the entire United States.

It is to be expected that ALJ, with its long history in the Los Angeles area, is set to open in 2012. The club, which will be the largest in the world, is set to open in 2012.

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AYALAYO

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DOT eyes huge Japan market Keeping one's word is key ...

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is organizing a business mission to Japan, Korea and Singapore from June 1 to 15, 2011.

The mission is organized by DOT Secretary Jay L. Byrnes, along with the U.S. Trade Representative, who is leading the mission to Japan, Korea and Singapore from June 1 to 15, 2011.

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Old enough to love, old enough to grieve

By Emily S. Balas-Gabala
 Child Writer

CHILDREN feel the loss and grieve the deaths of people close to them—parents, siblings, friends, classmates.

After the recent school tragedy where 26 children lost their lives, two 7-year-olds cried their hearts out as they watched the printing team carrying a classmate's remains. Some survivors did not even want to return to school.

The children of Ormaetia Union Book publisher leaders Barbara, who were older than the killed kids, showed their love for their father's reported words. But their eyes betrayed the depths of emotions they were now feeling as they saw the children's great loss.

While children who are old enough to love are old enough to grieve, they may differ in their expression of loss, and make it hard for them to understand the loss they suffered.

In his book, "Helping Children Cope with Loss," Alan Wolcott, a specialist in children's grief, says grief does not mean one's ability to "understand, but to control upon one's ability to live."

Coping with loss

It is crucial in the healing process that a child be provided opportunities to cope effectively with a loss. The child's capacity to cope with death depends on many things. What are these?

• The relationship with the person who died

• The "meaning" of the death

• The nature of the death (sudden, traumatic, or expected)

• The child's developmental stage

• The availability of family and community support

• The child's personality and temperament

Parents and caregivers play an important role in "normalizing" the loss by using language for children. Adults should feel free to express their own feelings of

What bereaved children need is to go through a healing process that can help them cope with the loss



grief. There is nothing wrong in a child's seeing an adult cry occasionally.

I remember how our family

"intensely" grieved after my uncle's death. I would cry every day for weeks.

Often after a death, it is our children who cry the most. I was 7 years old when my father died. It was a great thing that the "true losses" were not shared in all at the same time.

Adults need to understand the meaning and the effect of death on a child. More than just knowing the words, they should pay attention to non-verbal messages as well. A study shows that messages between adults and children during a time of grief

is very meaningful. An adult may help a child cope with grief. The child can not ignore them.

Planning

William Worden, who coined the term "grief work," says there are four practical tasks a child must complete to be able to move on to the next person.

First, the child must accept the reality of the death. Children have to be told about the death in words that are accurate and in a language that is appropriate. Furthermore, such as "It is just sleeping," are incorrect as they will give a wrong impression and may develop an

incorrect view in children.

Second, a child has to experience the pain or emotional aspects of the loss. Children aged 5-7 are particularly vulnerable.

Though able to understand the permanence of death, Worden says they still lack the ego and social skills to deal with the intensity of the feelings of loss. A child's ability to process the pain is followed by how adults behave. Worden says caregivers should address feelings of ambivalence and responsibility.

Third, a child has to adjust to the environment where the person is missing. Adjustment is determined by the rules and relationships the deceased had with

the child. Expressing mourning for a childhood loss can be required in many people to live, especially during important events.

Loss, a child must be able to understand the death and find ways to memorialize him. The memorial should not have to give up the relationship with the deceased, but must find a new and appropriate place for the deceased as there is no one to take their place in living after death.

Helping children

Many things can help children cope with loss. Adults should understand loss and grief at the level of children's understanding during the important stages that a person's caregiver can do for a grieving child.

An adult is good should try to go as much help for himself as he can. If a parent is very thoughtful, another person should step in to help a child cope.

Don't underestimate the importance of a child's developmental level. A child's full acceptance of death and the meaning of what it is determined not only by age but also by the child's personality. Having other

adults, living people, around helps when the sense of the loss is addressed.

Let a child express feelings and show acceptance. Do not tell a child, "Be brave," or "Be

strong," you will spend your mother." Being a professional with loss and a child cannot be expected to be brave in a time of intense feelings of loss. A child should be encouraged through expressions of affection.

Try to prevent any other loss, as far as possible. Getting rid of a pet, changing homes or schools cause stress.

Give a child something to remember the deceased by. This is called a "memory object"—something for a child to hold on to as he grows from a place of grief to a place of hope.

Encourage a child to do artwork, write stories or poems to work feelings out on paper. This will "transform" the child to make sense of the loss. Keeping a journal is a very powerful tool in helping process feelings and can be done as early as age 7.

There is no need to create for a child's "grieving process." Just you can be asked many times as the child grows up and understand better the loss.

Adults who listen, allow and encourage children to work on their grief, instead of away from it, help a child's healthy grieving process. It is important for a child to know that loving and thinking about a loss is normal to help the child move from a place of sadness into one of acceptance and understanding of the loss.

—



GAUPOZZI designers with beaded, draped details

THREE variations of similar gowns were by Indonesian seamstress with such details as beaded lines, beaded appliques and sequined appliques

NOT for the masses, the beaded black number comes with a white corset, strapped around the waist's sides



Gaupo's fashion homecoming

Text by Alan Y. Heng
Photos by Chris Poon

CLANGOR Gaupo swings both ways with ease, confidence and characteristic aplomb.

Last year got the swing idea, after an offering in his previous life, but to his remarkable credit as a fashion designer at work in the 1990s he presented a no-nonsense show at the podium of Hotel New Continental Manila.

As the fourth time in a row, the Hotel New and Hotel New, Clangor, the 1990s hotel group of KIM CO. Publishing, just produced the show.

Unlike in previous editions, however, organizers led by Thai-born, former manager of KIM CO. Publishing, and Jasing Nida, Thai Co's director of public relations, did away with the star cast of designers in favor of Gaupo.

They couldn't have chosen a better designer to highlight. Clangor, who, until recently, was based in Hong Kong as creative director of Shanghai Tang, more than lived up to expectations. In fact, a show of wedding gowns, the designer did so with wedding gowns that revealed a quiet, serious side.

In fact, the show featured more of the country's top designers, including Clangor, who, until recently, was based in Hong Kong as creative director of Shanghai Tang, more than lived up to expectations. In fact, a show of wedding gowns, the designer did so with wedding gowns that revealed a quiet, serious side.

Although some make believe world where everybody was tall, white and lucky (Gaupo was, indeed, mostly in Asia) Clangor and Thai Co's young models, Clangor's clothes were somewhat (and for that, more like) more of an understated elegance.

Not being

Despite their understated elegance, his clothes were neither fashionable nor boring. And the last part was well served by a head-to-toe simplicity. As the designer knew to point out, his designs were primarily created by a woman's figure, but by her personality and her attitude towards dressing.

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for younger women, the designer's last sense of confidence (and others and subtle elements) was also evident in subtle ways by Indonesian and secondary sponsors.

The best was disappointment. Moving down to stage and back, while the house audience was more than that, Clangor in such light shades as yellow, green, blue, and turquoise. The collection, after all, drew inspiration from Clangor.

He found the color combination of the show (which was a lot of white) (the lighting was perhaps partly in blue), but then overall impact more than made up for whatever disappointments he had.

Again, Clangor did not emphasize the more with elegant touches made from all fabrics such as chiffon, tulle, and lace. Almost all the pieces had a subtle touch, but some were understated with beaded appliques and sequined appliques.

Clangor's dress, with a full, sequined bodice, a full, sequined skirt, and a full, sequined skirt, was a subtle touch, but some were understated with beaded appliques and sequined appliques.

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A SECONDARY sponsor wears what appears like a simple, draped dress with black, sequined, strapped lines



A MORE understated gown for one of the designers has a large, dramatic, and beaded skirt

Sunday LIFE STYLE Travel

For feedback, e-mail us at life_style@pdi.com.ph
 See our past headlines improve the accuracy of our coverage in life_style@pdi.com.ph or life_style@pdi.com.ph



LOVERS' beach in Cabo San Lucas straddles two different bodies of water.

Down Mexican Riviera way

Text and photos by Bela Forness
 Contributor

TEN PESOS to \$1. Sounds like a dream come true, doesn't it? Well, for Mexicans that dream is reality. They are practically swimming in US dollars. And one factor that has helped Mexico attain such economic growth—for they certainly weren't this well off a decade ago during the Mexican peso crisis up until 2001—is tourism.

The Mexico Tourism Authority expects \$10 billion in tourists for 2005 alone. Tourism is the third most important economic activity in Mexico after oil and manufacturing.

While their more popular destination is the capital, Mexico City, for its ancient Aztec temples, the country's Gold Coast along the Pacific Ocean is worth visiting all its own. And there is no better way to experience the Mexican Riviera than by a fast-track cruise.

Of the cruise lines that offer trips to Mexico, Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) is a pioneer. The first and only cruise line to offer an eight-day, four-port itinerary (others only offer three), the NCL Mexican Riviera cruise begins and ends in Los Angeles, California. It sails along the Gold Coast, docks first at Acapulco, then goes on to Zihuatanejo/Ixtapa, Puerto Vallarta and, finally, Cabo San Lucas.

Cruise comforts

As they say, once you're here on a cruise, there is no other way to travel. None of the hassles of cramped legroom, food wrapped in plastic, seats that don't recline, overstuffed luggage compartments and sleeping beside a stranger who snores loudly or won't turn off his reading light. Cruise ships are known for their sprawling deck upon deck of restaurants, entertainment lounges, bars, casinos, swimming pools and hot tubs, gyms, theaters, and comfortably quiet cabins and staterooms.

No longer simply a means of transportation, cruising has become a destination in itself, like a vacation resort. NCL takes the cruising experience a step further with its Freestyle Cruising, wherein guests are free to choose when and where they want to eat, what to wear (formal nights are now optional), what activities to join, even when to leave the ship at the ports.

Acapulco

Upon arrival at the cruise's first port of call, Acapulco, one gets that instant effect. The bay is so framed with high rise hotels that it looks like a travel brochure any "tenderland" beach. It says Puerto Vallarta's gulf would be a disappointment.

As for the town proper, there are two sides to Acapulco: the old town and the modern. The modern side houses American restaurants, fast-food joints, discos and youth all legs such as Las Brisas, where tycooness Paulina Rubio, Flavia Domínguez, Jilka Iglesias and Elizabeth Taylor have houses.

Any cruise will tell you that night life is what Acapulco is known for, but skip the tourist road Rock Cafe and go for local hangouts like the infamous Salsa Fraga. Because this hangout is situated on a cliff overlooking Acapulco Bay, signs are posted all over saying "Don't jump out the windows, please!" heed the warning.

CONTINUED



QUINT - Stage cinema in Zihuatanejo

SUNDAY,
APRIL 24, 2005

Sunday LIFESTYLE C7



THE TAGAYTAY Convention Center hosts "Love Earth Festival" today.

Securing Tagaytay for future generations

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor
Photos by Mandy Navasero

ALL roads lead to Tagaytay City today for a day-long festival in honor of Mother Earth.

Called the "Love Earth Festival," the Earth Day celebration will be highlighted by a business and environmental forum, a fair and organic market featuring healthy food booths, an on-the-spot painting contest, an environmental play ("Earthday Funday on A Sunday" written by Miguel Castro) with a cast headed by actor Ricky Davao, and to cap the day, an open air concert featuring Noel Cabangon, Jacqui Magno, Reuben Laurente of the Company and other celebrities.

The affair will be held at the grounds of the Tagaytay International Convention Center. For Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham Tolentino, Earth Day is actually celebrated 365 days a year, with firm policies intended to stress a strong pro-environment message of his city: no factory, no giant billboard, no loud noise.

Loving earth

Tagaytay is probably the only city in the world where applicants seeking marriage licenses and students about to graduate have to plant trees first. For the city mayor, loving earth starts with taking care of his cool and green little acre.

"I sell Tagaytay almost every day," he says. "With over a hundred religious houses based in the city, you can say that our place has become the sanctuary of the soul and the Vatican City of the Philippines."

Perched on the highest point of Cavite, Tagaytay became a chartered city on June 21, 1938 when President Manuel L. Quezon signed Commonwealth Act No. 338, a bill authored by Cavite Rep. Justiniano Montano.

Now, the city has an income of over P400 million and a population of over 45,000, which swells to more than 200,000 on a weekend. Clearly, it's tourism that keeps the city alive.

Unique appeal

Apart from tourism, the city is encouraging agri-based industries such as processed fruits and meat, mushroom burgers and export of cutflowers. The big no-nos are factories, billboards and big shopping malls.

"I think the past and present executives of the city are united in not having a factory set foot in the city," says Tolentino. "I remain steadfast in not allowing billboards to sprout in the place. I told them to just go to Edsa or South Superhighway. The same is true with malls. Perhaps we can allow the cluster type of malls but not the big box



TAGAYTAY Mayor Abraham N. Tolentino

type."

What he is encouraging are tourist-oriented establishments which can use local manpower. "Before we issue a business permit, we require businessmen to use 60 percent of local manpower and 40 percent from their staff. My other priority is to give employment to original residents of the place."

Even party creatures cannot go wild in Tagaytay with their music. There is an ordinance disallowing loud noise, and if there is no special event, you can't indulge in karaoke singing beyond 9 p.m. This is probably one reason nightlife cannot flourish in Tagaytay.

"What is easy governing this place is that the population is small, the environment is good and clean, and people are really peace-loving," he explains.

So what is the Tagaytay that the city mayor is trying to preserve?

He looks back to the bucolic city of his youth for the answer: "I want a city that will remain a place to go during retreats, a place to retire to and a place where you can enjoy nature. We have a God-given climate, and we have the best view of a volcano anywhere in the world. It is when you have traveled to so many places that you realize the unique beauty of your own city."

The Love Earth Festival taking place today at the Tagaytay International Convention Center under the auspices of the Tagaytay City Government, and the Bank of the Philippine Islands and BPI Foundations is free of charge. However, donations are welcome for Clean Air Campaign and Environmental Education (call 0927-3406695 or 0917-8504011).

Down Mexican

From page C6

Then there's El Arco, where every five years, the water recedes to reveal a tiny beach. This marks a time of fiesta for the townspeople of Cabo, drawing in crowds of tourists from all over the world.

There are a number of beaches in Cabo. To get to either the main beach, Lover's Beach or Santa Maria Cove, one must take a water taxi about \$3 per person per way. As the cruise continues, the beaches get better with each stop, although none can compare to the luminous beaches of the Philippines.

Cruising is the most scenic way to travel, and Mexico provides many beautiful views that make you forget about the unforgiving sun, the heat from the ground that seeps through your *tsinelas* and the dry air that leaves you parched.

The sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the

real Mexico have you begging for more—fresh salsa and jalapeños with crunchy homemade corn tortilla chips, old quaint pueblos decorated with mosaics, old churches with the stations of the cross painted on walls, cobblestone streets, flocks of seagulls and pelicans flying alongside the boats whistling for food, the peddlers buried under stacks of hats and *bayong* combing the beaches, old men sitting in the bars drinking Corona at 2 p.m., the stillness of the towns during siesta time.

For more info on Norwegian Cruise Line's Mexican Riviera cruises, visit www.ncl.com or or call Star Cruises' Manila Office at 5215660/5268401 or email scphil@star-cruises.com.ph. China Airlines flies to Los Angeles, California, twice daily from Manila. Call 5238021-24.



NIGHT life in Acapulco is an adventure, especially at this bar perched on a cliff overlooking Acapulco Bay

